

***SECRET***

BURMA

As you know, Burma is now in the hands of a military government under General Ne Win which is making noises and taking actions which have a disturbing similarity to those of a Communist government. It is still too early to say how this is going to turn out, but we are inclined to think that the present leaders are primarily interested in getting rid of all foreign influences--whether East or West--and in prodding the Burmese out of their customary lethargy. Our influence with the Burmese has never been very great and, in any event, we tend to doubt that the Burmese people would stand for an authoritarian government along Communist lines.